job opportunities, has not been liberalised so far ;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not liberalising the small sector and the agro-based industries including sugar and milk processing industries ;

(e) whether Government propose to continue with the same policy ;

(f) if so, what is the rationale thereof ; and

(g) if not, what changes are being contemplated and by when these are likely to be brought about ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The anticipated increase in World trade, income and employment as a result of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations is also likely to enhance employment opportunities in India. The access which would become available to the services markets of our trading partners would also benefit us.

(c) to (g) The small scale sector has been progressively liberalised. With the adoption of the new policy in August 1991, licensing and other restrictions in the small scale sector have been reduced drastically. Employment in the small scale sector has continued to increase from 125.3 lakhs in 1991 to 134 lakhs in 1992-93.

Resisting Changes in Patent Law

1923. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would be able to resist changes in the patent laws as required under GATT accord ;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) whether our biggest trading partners EC, USA and Japan would compel us to change patent law ;

(d) what kind of changes are likely to occur if amendments have to be undertaken ; and

(e) what is the expected rise in our exports, foreign earnings, and GDP growth due to GATT accord in 1995 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Negotiations on the Uruguay Round agreements including on intellectual property rights, have been concluded in December, 1993. All 117th negotiating countries including India have joined the consensus in respect of the results of Negotiations. After completion of ratification procedures by the member countries, all members are enjoined to bring their laws and regulations in conformity with their obligations. Changes to the patent law would involve scope of patent, term of patent and compulsory licensing etc.

(e) There are different estimates of the likely trade and income effects of the Uruguay Round. A conservative estimate of increase in world trade by 240 billion dollars has been made by the OECD. Even on the assumptions that India's share of world trade remains constant, India's increase in exports could be in the range of 1.2 to 2 billion dollars.

Seeds under Patent Law

1924. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI ANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :
SHRI G.G. SWELL :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the seeds for agricultural production used in India which are under patent

law abroad or are likely to come under the same ;

(b) whether the usage of these seeds in India is affected by patent law envisaged under GATT treaty ;

(c) the time duration of patents for seeds plants etc. related to agriculture under GATT ;

(d) whether cultivation and transaction of patented seeds amongst farmers is permitted under GATT ;

(e) whether non-farmer's transaction as done by seed corporations, commercial firms would be subjected to patent law under GATT ; and

(f) what is the annual turnover of various type of seeds through traditional farmer channel and commercial channels ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Information on seeds which are under patents in accordance with the patent laws of foreign countries is not available since the Indian patents Act does not provide for patenting of seeds.

(b) to (e) There is no obligation to provide for patenting of seeds in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round. In respect of the option of effective sui generis system for protection of plant varieties no details have been spelt out. It is left to each country to design its plant variety protection law to suit its national requirements. The Agreement does not prohibit Members from providing for the traditional rights of farmers to save, use and exchange seed. Non-farmer transactions in case of protected varieties of seeds would be subject to the conditions governing such transactions in the law that we may enact.

(f) As Government does not maintain information regarding traditional exchanges or regarding private companies transaction, this information is not available.

राजस्थान से हीरे के निर्यात के लिये सुविधाएं

1925. **चौधरी हरि सिंह** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान हीरे के निर्यात के लिये राजस्थान में हीरा उद्योग को क्या-क्या सुविधाएं दी गई हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार का हीरा व्यापार के संवर्धन के लिये जयपुर में हीरा उद्योग परिसर स्थापित करने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) :

(क) सरकार ने देश भर के सभी हीरा निर्यातकों को एक जैसी सुविधाएं दे रखी है और आयात-निर्यात नीति में इनका उल्लेख किया गया है । इसीलिए, राजस्थान सहित किसी भी राज्य के हीरा-निर्यातकों को कोई विशेष सुविधा नहीं दी जाती है ।

(ख) जयपुर में हीरा उद्योग परिसर की स्थापना का सरकार के पास कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Merger of TFAI and TDAI

1926. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to merger the Trade Fair Authority of India and the Trade Development Authority of India into a single organisation ;

(b) whether this decision has been implemented ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The erstwhile Trade Development Authority